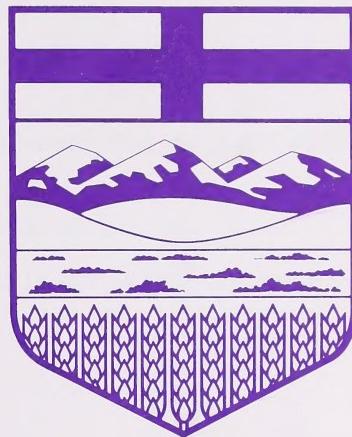


ALD. 1990-491

CANADIANA

OCT 16 1990

QUESTIONS BOOKLET



GRADE 9 ACHIEVEMENT TEST

English Language Arts
Part B: Reading

June 1990

Alberta
EDUCATION

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**GRADE 9 ACHIEVEMENT TEST
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

Part B: Reading

QUESTIONS BOOKLET

Part B of the Grade 9 English Language Arts Achievement Test has 2 BOOKLETS:

The READINGS BOOKLET contains 8 reading selections.

The QUESTIONS BOOKLET contains 3 visuals and 65 questions.

- BE SURE THAT YOU HAVE A READINGS BOOKLET, A QUESTIONS BOOKLET, AND AN ANSWER SHEET.**

INSTRUCTIONS

- On the ANSWER SHEET provided, use ONLY an HB pencil to mark the CORRECT or BEST answer for each question, as shown in the following example:

Question

Answer Sheet

1. A rose is

A B C D

- A. a fruit
- B. a flower
- C. an animal
- D. an automobile

1.

- Mark only ONE answer for each question. If you change an answer, erase your first mark completely.
- Make sure that the number of the question on your answer sheet matches the number of the question you are answering.
- You may write in the test booklets. However, you MUST place your answers on the answer sheet provided.
- You may NOT use a dictionary, thesaurus, or other reference materials.

YOU HAVE 1½ HOURS TO COMPLETE THIS TEST.

JUNE 1990

I. Read “Ultimate Construction” on page 2 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 1 to 7.

1. The word that is CLOSEST in meaning to “encroaching” as used in line 5 is
 - A. blowing
 - B. advancing
 - C. bordering
 - D. disturbing
2. In lines 31 to 36, the sand is compared to a
 - A. disease
 - B. storm
 - C. tide
 - D. lawn
3. Lines 31 to 38 suggest that the “Last Man on Earth” is
 - A. defiant
 - B. innocent
 - C. terrified
 - D. trustworthy
4. The “Ultimate Construction” is the
 - A. boy
 - B. house
 - C. desert
 - D. sandcastle
5. The conflict that is developed in this story is between
 - A. the threat of man’s extinction and his assumption that he will endure
 - B. the encroaching sand and the technology that will protect man
 - C. rationality and joy
 - D. death and life

Continued

6. The impact of the story is achieved through the writer's use of

- A. humor
- B. flashback
- C. surprise ending
- D. character development

7. The dominant mood that the writer creates for the reader is

- A. anxiety
- B. frustration
- C. hopelessness
- D. peacefulness

II. Read “Silence Is Obsolete” on page 3 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 8 to 12.

8. “Silence is obsolete” (line 1) means that silence
- A. no longer exists
 - B. is not important
 - C. serves no purpose
 - D. is no longer desirable
9. The feeling that is MOST reinforced in lines 9 and 10 is one of
- A. comfort
 - B. drowsiness
 - C. confinement
 - D. contemplation
10. The phrase “Deep and thick as wool” (line 10) indicates the
- A. intensity of silence
 - B. intensity of thought
 - C. warmth of the family
 - D. closeness of the family
11. In lines 14 to 17, the poet MOST CLEARLY suggests that
- A. people cannot escape loneliness
 - B. modern technology causes loneliness
 - C. people are not complete without silence
 - D. being lonely is a consequence of silence
12. The poem is organized MAINLY through a comparison between
- A. childhood and adulthood
 - B. the past and the present
 - C. farmhouses and apartments
 - D. the old-fashioned and the modern

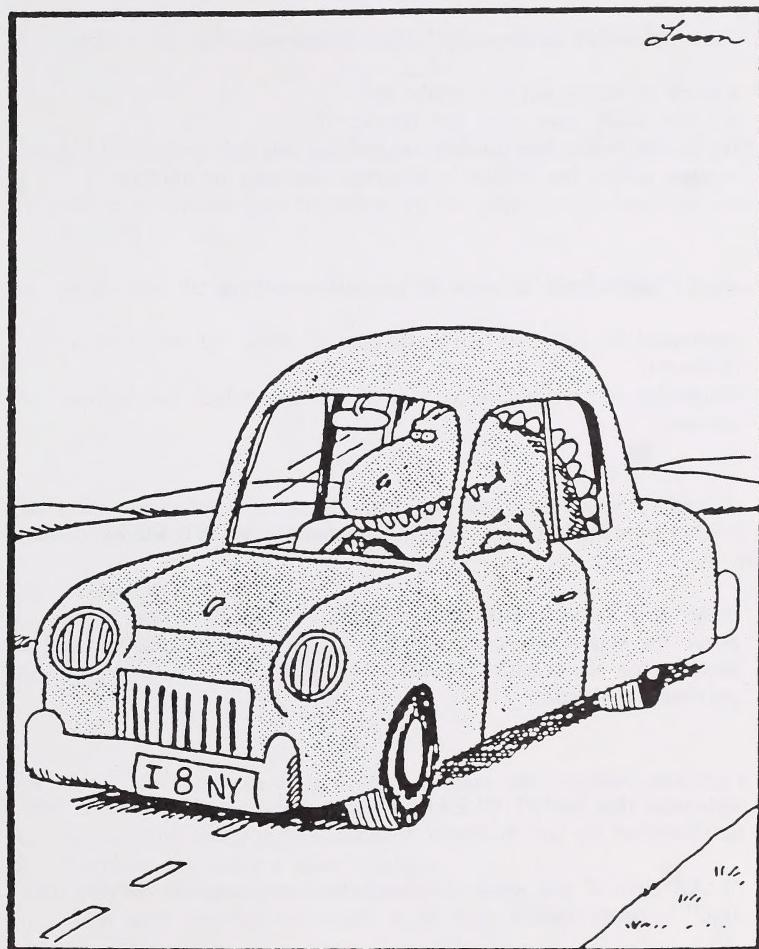
III. Read the excerpt from *So We Got Married* on page 4 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 13 to 20.

13. In the context of the first paragraph, “They” (line 4) refers to
- A. the previous owners of the farm
 - B. most people from Parry Sound
 - C. the narrator’s parents
 - D. Dan and Mary
14. A cobbler (line 6) is a
- A. rancher
 - B. shoemaker
 - C. blacksmith
 - D. stablehand
15. The narrator chooses not to work for his brother on the farm because
- A. his brother is a crab
 - B. he does not like farming
 - C. he enjoys town life much more
 - D. his brother does not want to pay him
16. When Mary says “it was no time to take a day off for a funeral” (lines 18-19), she implies that
- A. she feels no grief
 - B. Sunday is a day for church activities
 - C. farm accidents are common occurrences
 - D. there is too much farm work to hold a funeral on a weekday
17. The reason that Mary feels she cannot return to being a governess or lady companion after Dan’s death is that she
- A. does not want people to gossip
 - B. has two small children
 - C. cannot leave the farm
 - D. is a very proud woman

Continued

18. Mary is presented as being
- A. calculating and bold
 - B. unfaithful and self-serving
 - C. ruled more by reason than by emotion
 - D. ruled more by emotion than by justice
19. The way that the narrator communicates in this excerpt
- A. creates a sense of formality
 - B. reveals his feelings for Mary
 - C. contributes to mood development
 - D. makes it easier for the reader to understand
20. The title, *So We Got Married*, implies that
- A. getting married is logical under the circumstances
 - B. because Dan has died the narrator can now marry Mary
 - C. the narrator wants to marry Mary to avoid embarrassment
 - D. the narrator has no choice but to marry his dead brother's widow

IV. Examine the cartoon and answer question 21.



21. The cartoonist is MOST LIKELY making fun of

- A. people who use personalized license plates
- B. monsters who perform human activities
- C. unsafe driving practices
- D. residents of New York

V. Read the excerpt from *The Novitiate* on pages 5 and 6 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 22 to 30.

22. The sister “dawdled deliberately” (line 6) because she
- A. wanted to hurry but she could not
 - B. did not really care what her brother did
 - C. wanted to make her brother angry with her
 - D. wanted to get her brother’s attention one way or another
23. The word “enthralled” as used in line 10 means
- A. captivated
 - B. distracted
 - C. tempted
 - D. amused
24. The brother’s enthusiasm for catching gophers is MOST LIKELY caused by his desire to
- A. make more money than Stewie Grant
 - B. prove his superiority over animals
 - C. impress his sister with his skill
 - D. purchase a bicycle
25. The statement that MOST CLEARLY helps the reader understand why the sister was so disturbed by her brother’s treatment of gophers is
- A. “ ‘All right if you grab him hard the first time, but they’re tricky. They fight’ ” (lines 19-20)
 - B. “he played the string into his hand and the little animal recoiled from him in terror, but fury, too” (lines 41-43)
 - C. “ ‘Stewie Grant doesn’t kill his’ ” (lines 48-49)
 - D. “ ‘Now I’m going to set you up with a snare of your own’ ” (lines 52-53)

Continued

26. The phrase “in wild, sad ecstasy” (lines 86-87) indicates that the sister is
- A. excited and nervous
 - B. tense and flustered
 - C. frustrated but pleased
 - D. thrilled but heavy-hearted
27. The MAIN reason that the gopher is referred to as a “sacrifice” (line 87) is to
- A. make the reader feel horrified by the pleasure the brother gets from killing gophers
 - B. show that the gopher’s death is the cost of the brother’s approval
 - C. suggest that the sister is very disturbed by what she has done
 - D. remind the reader that the gopher is an innocent victim
28. The relationship between the brother and his sister, as presented in this story, can be compared to the relationship between
- A. instructor and student
 - B. guard and prisoner
 - C. parent and child
 - D. king and slave
29. The many references to Judy Craig’s gopher are intended MAINLY to
- A. suggest the sister’s reluctance
 - B. highlight the sister’s inner conflict
 - C. show the limited attention span of children
 - D. show how attached the sister is to Judy Craig’s gopher
30. Leaving the central characters unnamed
- A. emphasizes their relationship as brother and sister
 - B. makes the reader want to read further in the story
 - C. suggests that anybody would act the same way
 - D. emphasizes the actions of the other characters

VI. Read the advertisement and answer questions 31 and 32.



*"Place a frog seven times
in the mouth."*

(OLD ENGLISH REMEDY FOR
SORE THROAT)

Strepsils.

**When a sore throat has you
willing to try anything.**

When your throat's really sore, you can restore comfort in swallowing with an up-to-date remedy. Strepsils. They're individually wrapped lozenges, vacuum packed in tins for freshness. And Strepsils with their antiseptic ingredients, dichlorobenzyl and amylnitroresol, melt slowly to prolong the flow of soothing, cooling medication. Don't let that great taste fool you. Strepsils really works.

Strepsils

- 31.** The MAIN effect of the illustration in the advertisement is that it
- A. shows literally how painful a sore throat can be
 - B. provides advice on how to soothe a sore throat
 - C. catches the reader's attention
 - D. sells an old-fashioned remedy
- 32.** The advertiser MOST LIKELY includes the phrase "antiseptic ingredients, dichlorobenzyl and amylnitroresol" to
- A. inform the buyer of the contents
 - B. show that the medicine is effective
 - C. show that the medicine is up to date
 - D. impress the buyer with scientific terminology

VII. Read “Mrs. Reece Laughs” on page 7 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 33 to 41.

33. The words that BEST contrast Mrs. Reece with the majority of people are
- A. “Laughter, with us, is no great undertaking” (line 1)
 - B. “Laughter with Mrs. Reece is much less simple” (line 3)
 - C. “And presently the circles of her eyes / Close into slits” (lines 8-9)
 - D. “Then all that load of bottled mirth escapes” (line 14)
34. The word that is CLOSEST in meaning to “germinates” as used in line 4 is
- A. rises
 - B. begins
 - C. breaks
 - D. escapes
35. In the metaphor “load of bottled mirth” (line 14), the word “bottled” means
- A. expanded
 - B. exploded
 - C. contained
 - D. germinated
36. The last line, “And Mrs. Reece has laughed,” is separated from the rest of the poem to suggest that Mrs. Reece’s laugh
- A. is very brief
 - B. has increased
 - C. is very weak
 - D. has ended
37. Mrs. Reece is described as a woman who
- A. rarely laughs
 - B. constantly laughs
 - C. laughs explosively
 - D. finds it difficult to laugh

Continued

38. The poet's description of Mrs. Reece's laughter suggests that

- A. few people laugh heartily
- B. most people laugh heartily
- C. Mrs. Reece laughs too much
- D. Mrs. Reece laughs to show off

39. The poet's attitude toward Mrs. Reece is one of

- A. pity
- B. contempt
- C. tolerance
- D. appreciation

40. This poem focuses MAINLY on

- A. describing how Mrs. Reece laughs
- B. describing Mrs. Reece's personality
- C. informing the reader how laughter arises
- D. demonstrating the complexity of laughter

41. Mrs. Reece's laugh is BEST compared to

- A. a wave
- B. a storm
- C. a volcano
- D. an explosion

VIII. Read “I Knew How a Grizzly Felt” on page 8 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 42 to 49.

- 42.** In the first paragraph, “the surprise of first love” (line 3) is directly compared to
- A. a chinook
 - B. Prairie springs
 - C. a foothills’ spring
 - D. early childhood springs
- 43.** The writer was surprised by the chinook because
- A. the smell in the air was so strong
 - B. he was not emotionally ready for it
 - C. the grizzly was still in hibernation
 - D. there had been snow for several months
- 44.** “I *was* a grizzly” (line 20) refers to the narrator’s
- A. being hungry
 - B. feeling aggressive
 - C. being big and strong
 - D. awakening from winter
- 45.** The writer’s choice of words in lines 20 to 22 MOST STRONGLY suggests
- A. relief
 - B. fright
 - C. surprise
 - D. excitement
- 46.** Lines 29 to 31 suggest that the word “contrition” expresses
- A. apology
 - B. contempt
 - C. gratitude
 - D. appreciation

Continued

47. The details in the passage suggest that the writer finds winter to be
- A. confining
 - B. stimulating
 - C. antagonizing
 - D. exhilarating
48. The mood that the writer creates when writing about the April morning is one of
- A. romance
 - B. mystery
 - C. compassion
 - D. anticipation
49. The MAIN purpose of this passage is to
- A. compare winter and spring
 - B. describe the effects of a chinook
 - C. explain animal behavior in spring
 - D. recreate a foothills' spring experience

IX. Read “Media Menace” on pages 9 to 11 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 50 to 57.

- 50.** Chris’ parents are afraid that he is wanted by the police MAINLY for
- A. rejecting media control
 - B. trying to influence his parents’ thoughts
 - C. printing material encouraging public resistance
 - D. refusing to conform to the expected image of a teenager
- 51.** Chris feels that Den Longworth is
- A. arrogant
 - B. artificial
 - C. insensitive
 - D. impractical
- 52.** The word “barrage” as used in line 92 means
- A. flood
 - B. range
 - C. belief
 - D. fraction
- 53.** At the end of the scene, Chris feels
- A. accepting
 - B. depressed
 - C. remorseful
 - D. frustrated
- 54.** The implication of this passage is that Chris’ parents are
- A. independent thinkers
 - B. strong willed
 - C. brainwashed
 - D. concerned

Continued

55. Chris' attitude about society's dependence on the media is one of
- A. doubt
 - B. denial
 - C. disgust
 - D. disregard
56. The statement that BEST illustrates the title, "Media Menace", is
- A. "We can be entertained, informed, and instructed without ever having to leave our rooms" (lines 13-14)
 - B. "Maybe newspapers and TV do try to simplify things too much sometimes" (lines 43-44)
 - C. "Life is shown as either great tragedies or corny comedies" (lines 46-47)
 - D. "They're trying to make us reflect their images" (line 105)
57. Chris' behavior and attitude imply that he
- A. is bitter about his life
 - B. cannot tolerate progress
 - C. is trying to control his parents' emotions
 - D. feels that individuality is worth fighting for

X. Read the excerpt from *Atlantic Ordeal* on page 12 of your Readings Booklet and answer questions 58 to 63.

- 58.** The writer MOST LIKELY uses direct speech in line 4 to
- A. advance the plot
 - B. convey intensity of feeling
 - C. allow fewer words to be used
 - D. convey information about the setting
- 59.** The author italicizes the word “*now*” (line 15) MOST LIKELY to indicate that the gunner’s tone of voice is one of
- A. concern
 - B. urgency
 - C. curiosity
 - D. impatience
- 60.** The gunner’s words and actions in lines 15 to 29 suggest an attitude of
- A. gruff sympathy
 - B. anxious inquiry
 - C. obvious discomfort
 - D. gentle consideration
- 61.** The italicized word “*that*” (lines 18 and 22) conveys the gunner’s belief that the boy’s ailment is
- A. serious
 - B. unexpected
 - C. insignificant
 - D. life-threatening

- 62.** The writer suggests that the MOST EFFECTIVE actions to calm the boy were those of
- A. Father Sullivan
 - B. Mary Cornish
 - C. the gunner
 - D. the cadet
- 63.** By the end of the excerpt, the mood of the people in the boat is probably one of
- A. fear
 - B. relief
 - C. happiness
 - D. frustration

XI. Examine the cartoon and answer questions 64 and 65.

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

by Lynn Johnston



64. In the last frame of the cartoon, the boy is

- A. angry
- B. defiant
- C. victorious
- D. disinterested

65. A reader would find this cartoon humorous because

- A. the girl finally gets her own way
- B. it shows typical behavior of children
- C. boys do not usually walk away from fights
- D. the toy the children are fighting over breaks

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